

# Don't Throw That Out!

Trash To Treasure Ideas  
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## Buttons

1. Use buttons as fringe- thread buttons onto thread. Sew onto scarves, table runners, placemats, etc.
2. Button topped box- decorate a box or canister using buttons & hot glue.
3. Adore slippers, purses, sweaters, etc with decorative buttons
4. Thread shanked buttons on wire or elastic to create napkin rings or jewelry.
5. Dress up pillows with coordinating buttons.
6. Fill a glass vase with buttons.
7. Dress up magnets by hot gluing on a button.
8. Create a trivet or coaster by "tiling" with buttons.
9. Group a bunch of buttons together using string and create a decorative "pull" for a lamp chain.
10. Buttons as a monogram. Print a letter stencil from computer. Trace onto object and fill in with buttons.
11. Hot glue a button over top a picture hanger to create a decorative nail-head.

## Wool Sweater Totes-Recycle your wool sweaters into one-of-kind totes

*Supplies:*

*100% wool sweater (Shetland, cashmere, merino & alpaca work well)*

*chalk*

*scissors*

*needle & strong thread*

*sewing machine (optional)*

1. Begin by washing your sweater in the washing machine, using the hottest water possible. Washing will cause the wool fibers to compress, making the sweater denser and smaller. This process is called felting. It may take several washings to felt the sweater.
2. Once the sweater has been felted (usually 3 washings), lay the sweater flat to dry.
3. Turn the sweater inside out. Following the pattern provided, use chalk to mark the sweater. Cut off the sleeves and neckline of the sweater. (see pattern)
4. Refold sweater so the side seams of the sweater and the strap openings face front.
5. Using a ¼" seam, hand stitch or machine stitch the bottom closed.
6. Turn tote right side out.
7. To create the handles, fold each handle in half, matching up raw edges. Hand sew or machine stitch along raw edge.
8. Tote is finished. You may choose to embellish tote by using scraps of felted sweater to create flowers, pockets, etc. Buttons and ribbon add nice touches.

*\* Pattern provided by Canadianliving.com*

## Ideas for Vintage Books

1. Picture frame: Use a utility knife and metal ruler, to cut a window in an old cloth-bound book cover to create a picture frame.
2. Table lamp: Stack books to desired lamp length. Clamp together and drill through book stack. Insert lamp kit.
3. Pillow: Photo copy page of book onto photo fabric. Use coordinating fabric to craft a one-of-a-kind pillow.
4. Artwork: Frame the cover or page of favorite book and hang on wall.
5. Shelf: Using 3 L-shaped brackets (2 supporting weight of book & 1 above book) mount book to wall creating a unique shelf.
6. Bookmark: Use a utility knife to remove book's decorative binding. Glue binding to cardstock and attached ribbon or tassel to top.
7. Decorative files: Remove pages from old photo album. Hot glue standard sized accordion file inside album. Hot glue decorative ribbon to tie closed.

## Wood Windows-

add flowers

create a daily chalkboard

display family pictures

create a shadow box- frame vintage linens or baby clothes

frame children's art

add your favorite "words of wisdom" (paint, etch, vinyl lettering )

## Knobs/Drawer Pulls

... mount on wood for a coat rack

... mount on end of shelf for an instant bookend

... curtain hardware or tie-back

...use as "legs" on a box or tray



## Directions for Beaded Cake Stand

### Supplies:

*Glass or ceramic cake stand or plate*

*Epoxy adhesive formulated to bond to glass*

*Assorted beads*

*Earring stems (found in jewelry making supplies)*

*Silver lead-free solder*

1. Wash all glass pieces and wipe dry. This will help ensure a proper bond between glass, beads and metal pieces.

2. For dangling beads, thread earring stem through single bead. Cut stem to leave only 1/8 of inch. Using pliers, curve stem into a loop. You will need several of these threaded beads to glue around the perimeter of the plate.

3. Glue perimeter beads around underside of stand. Allow glue to set according to manufacture's directions.

4. You will now need to make "earrings", using the wire earrings stems and various beads. Make enough to attach one to every anchor bead, by bending end of stem and threaded it through loop on anchor bead. Make sure to crimp the ends close.

### To embellish cake stand dome-

1. Use pliers to cut a length of solder wire. Using round nosed pliers, create a coil on each end, and bend remaining wire into a curved design. Place solder design against dome, shaping it to curve of dome. Place glue on coils and adhere to bowl. Use tape to hold coil in place while glue sets. Add additional solder designs to dome.

2. After glue is set, remove tape and glue desired beads onto dome and random coils.

## Dressing Up Doilies

*Clean doilies in warm water, using a mild detergent. You can give the doilies a vintage look by dying them in a mixture of hot water and natural tea. Place doily in a bowl and cover with hot water. Add 3 or 4 tea bags. Allow doily to soak until desired color is reached. Doilies can also be dyed using fabric dye (just follow the directions on the dye packaging).*

### Ideas:

Vintage bracelet: cover an inexpensive plastic bracelet with a piece of lace or section of doily. Stretch lace around bracelet and secure on the inside using hot glue.

Embellish a vase or bowl: make a collar for a vase or bowl by sewing several doilies end-to-end. Slip the ring around the bowl.

Shirt: embellish a plain t-shirt by hand-stitching on a doily.

Pretty wire hanger: a lace covered hanger makes a heart-felt gift. Use it to display baby gowns or hang jewelry. Lay hanger on flat surface and stick the hanger's neck through the doily. Pull the excess towards the bottom of the hanger. Trim off excess and hand-stitch along the bottom edge.

Head-band: left-over pieces of trim or lace make a pretty headband. Simply hot glue lace to a plain plastic headband.

Doily bowl: to create a one-of-a kind bowl, completely wet doily with liquid starch. Create mold by flipping a bowl upside-down and covering the bowl with plastic wrap. Lay doily over bowl and allow to dry for 1-3 days.

Tye-dyed purse: Purchase cotton doilies and tie dye using fabric dyes (i.e. Rit).

To create purse, purchase a canvas tote and machine stitch doilies to both sides.

Pillow: Simply hand-stitch an heirloom doily to a pillow. Excellent idea for a wedding "ring pillow."

Lamp Shade: Strip an old lamp shade down to the wire frame. Using pieces of lace and various doilies, pin doilies around frame, creating a skirt. Once frame is covered, hand-stitch all pieces together. Stitch skirt in place, by sewing around top edge.

Doily runner- Create a lacey polka-a-dot runner by stitching various doilies together.

## Homemade Spa Products

### **Lip Gloss**

*¼ tsp melted paraffin wax (melt in microwave)*

*1 tsp petroleum jelly*

*1 candy melt for coloring*

*1/8 tsp oil base candy flavoring*

Combine all ingredients in zip lock baggie. Dip bag in hot water to melt. Cut corner to squeeze into container.

Refrigerate for 15 minutes or let stand for 1 hour.

### **Chocolate lip gloss**

*2 tsp petroleum jelly*

*1/8 tsp honey*

*5 chocolate chips (milk chocolate for a lighter color, semisweet for a dark)*

*1/8 tsp shortening*

Mix all ingredients in a microwave safe container. Microwave, uncovered on high power for 20 seconds. Stir. Repeat until all chips are fully melted. Pour into a small jar and freeze 15 minutes or until solid. Makes abt. 1 T of gloss.

### **Chocolate Brown Sugar Body Scrub**

*1 ½ cups brown sugar*

*½ c. olive oil*

*1 T. cocoa powder*

*¼ tsp. almond extract*

Pour brown sugar into a bowl and pack down. Pour olive oil slowly into bowl and mix until scrub has a wet-sand consistency. Blend in cocoa powder. Add almond extract and mix well. Scoop into jar. Make about 1 ½ cups scrub. Do not use on face.

### **Bath bombs**

*1 c. baking soda*

*½ c. cornstarch*

*½ c. citric acid*

*1/8 c. Epsom salt (optional)*

*Essential oil (such as cinnamon or peppermint) or dried herbs, such as basil or rosemary)*

*Witch hazel in a spray bottle*

Stir all dry ingredients in a glass bowl. Add essential oil (abt. 10-20 drops per recipe). Spray 3 times with witch hazel and mix well. Keep spraying the mix until it clumps together when you squeeze it in your hands, but make sure it is not wet, or the mixture will start foaming. Add dried herbs if using them. Press firmly into molds, ice cube trays or plastic shapes. Or roll into balls with your hands and let sit one minute. Wrap in waxed paper or foil. Let dry 24-48 hours. Don't let the bath bombs get wet until you use them.

### **Lemon Sugar Body Scrub**

*½ cup granulated sugar*

*10 drops lemon oil, or half a lemon freshly squeezed*

*1 cup olive oil (or jojoba or almond oil)*

Mix all ingredients together. Apply to body by massaging in a circular motion, then shower off. Makes 1 full body treatment.

### **Country Milk Bath**

*1 cup dry powdered milk*

*1 cup Epsom salt or sea salt*

*½ cup baking soda*

*¼ crystallized citric acid*

*20 drops scented oil*

In large bowl, combine all ingredients and transfer to a decorative jar. To use, add about ½ cup to your bath water

## Chairs-

- ... revitalize with new paint & fabric
- ... shelf
- ...bookstand
- ...saw off back of ladder-back chairs and use as a towel rack
- ...saw off back and use seat as an ottoman, end-table or stool

## Vintage Hankies-

- ...frame between two pieces of glass
- ...create an "heirloom angel"
- ...tack on the front of a throw pillow
- ...stitch together for a whimsical valance or table runner
- ...embellish a denim skirt or overalls

## China plates & tea-cups-

- ...wall decor
- ...lamps
- ... gifts- fill teacup with candy or small plant
- ...Christmas tree ornaments
- ...hall mirror- glue an inexpensive round mirror to middle of plate
- ...teacups as desk organizers (paper clips, rubber bands, etc.)
- ...base for flower arrangements
- ...bird feeder

### Tea Cup Candles

#### **Supplies:**

*Small china teacup*

*Candle wax*

*Empty soup can*

*White birthday candle*

*White glitter*

#### **Instructions:**

1. Put hot water in teacup to warm it as the wax is melting. Melt wax in soup can, setting the can in a pan of water heated on the stove.
2. Color the wax using old colored candles or candle coloring. Remove wax from the heat. Pour the hot water out of cup and dry. Carefully pour the wax into the cup and let it set until a soft covering appears on the top of the wax.
3. Push a birthday candle into the wax and steady it until it stands up straight. Add glitter to the top of the wax. After the candle is completely burned, the cup can be washed in very hot water to remove the wax residue.

### Teacup Photo Holder

#### **Supplies:**

*Teacup & saucer*

*Plaster of Paris mix*

*About 60" of 18-gauge wire*

*12" of 26- gauge wire*

*Needle nose pliers*

*Wire cutters*

#### **Instructions**

1. Cut the 18 gauge wire into five pieces: one 14 inches long, two 12 inches long, and two 10 inches long. Using needle nosed pliers, curl about 3 inches of each wire into a spiral with a gap between each round. These are the tops of the wires and will be holding the pictures. Add beads or embellishments to the wire.
2. Bend the other end of each wire down at a right angle about 1 inch and then one inch again, creating a "u" shape on the end of each wire. Using the 26 gauge wire, bundle all the wires together at the bottom above the bends so they stay together.
3. Mix enough plaster of Paris and water to fill the cup. Pour into the teacup to within ½ inch of the rim.
4. Fan out the bottom of the wires and push them into the middle of the wet plaster. Hold until plaster sets up enough to hold the wires in place. Let dry completely.
5. Once plaster is completely dry, cover top of plaster with beads, moss, doily, etc.

### Vinyl Records

To shape vintage vinyl records. Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Place record on cookie sheet or over top a inverted oven proof bowl. Place in oven. Watch closely, as record will soften in 2-3 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool.

